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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00
TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /071 W
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R 130600Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHC 9993
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 7359

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, EAID, GE, GW, AF
SUBJ: EAST GERMANY CONSIDERS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR AFGHANISTAN

1. ON SEPT 10, THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR DISCUSSED WITH HERMANN SCHWIESAU, AMBASSADOR OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, THE RECENT VISIT TO AFGHANISTAN OF EAST GERMAN ENVOY PETER STOCKMANN. STOCKMANN, WHO WAS DESCRIBED BY THE KABUL PRESS AS A "SENIOR STAFF MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY OF THE GDR", HAD OSTENSIBLY COME TO AFGHANISTAN TO DELIVER GDR AID FOR FLOOD VICTIMS. SCHWEISAU ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT STOCKMANN'S PRINCIPAL MISSION HAD BEEN TO ASSESS THE POSSIBILITIES FOR MOUNTING A GDR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN THIS COUNTRY. ON SEPT 6, STOCKMANN DISCUSSED THIS TOPIC WITH FOREIGN MINISTER HAFIZULLAH AMIN.

2. SCHWIESAU EXPLAINED THAT HIS GOVT WILL WANT TO CONSIDER THE
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AFGHAN SITUATION CAREFULLY BEFORE BECOMING INVOLVED IN ANY MAJOR AID PROGRAMS HERE. HE OBSERVED THAT A LACK OF ASSISTANCE FUNDS DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE THE MAIN PROBLEM IN AFGHANISTAN; THE AFGHANS DO NOT HAVE AN ADEQUATE MANAGERIAL AND TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUSTAIN SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

3. COMMENT: AFTER OVER A QUARTER CENTURY OF EXPERIENCE, WE WOULD

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AGREE WITH SCHWIESAU'S ASSESSMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL
HERE. IT IS PRESUMABLY ONE REASON WHY SOVIET FORCED-DRAFT PROJECTS
IN THIS COUNTRY INVOLVE SO MANY SOVIET TECHNICIANS.

ALTHOUGH THE WEST GERMAN EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BE SANGUINE ABOUT
THE FUTURE OF ITS AID PROJECTS IN AFGHANISTAN, IT IS POSSIBLE
THAT THE AFGHANS MIGHT EVENTUALLY DECIDE TO REPLACE BONN'S
ADVISORS IN CERTAIN SENSITIVE FIELDS, SUCH AS POLICE TRAINING,
WITH GERMANS OF A MORE ACCEPTABLE POLITICAL COLORATION.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Review Release Event: n/a
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